

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 SSM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /094 W
-----061456 270654Z /15

R 260953Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8896
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4217

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MILL, PINT, PEPR, LE, SY
SUBJ: REMARKS OF PSP MEMBER ISIM NA'MAN ON THE CURRENT
SITUATION

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON JULY 25, A LEADING MEMBER
OF THE PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP), ISIM NA'MAN SAID
THE FOLLOWING.

A. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT (TO WHICH THE PSP BELONGS)
OPPOSED EITHER THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY SOUTH OR
THE USE OF THE ARMY TO PERFORM SECURITY DUTIES IN WEST BEIRUT,
UNTIL THE ARMY'S COMMAND STRUCTURE WAS CHANGED TO MAKE IT
LESS UNDER THE DOMINATION OF THE MARONITES. IF THE ARMY
WERE USED TO PERFORM EITHER OF THE ABOVE TASKS NOW, THERE
WOULD BE ARMED CLASHES WITH IT.

B. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT HAD FORMALLY ENDORSED A "COUNCIL
SYSTEM" FOR THE ARMY. UNDER THIS SYSTEM, THERE WOULD BE A
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COMMANDING GENERAL WITH FULL CONTROL OVER ALL MILITARY
OPERATIONS. A COUNCIL INCLUDING THE COMMANDING GENERAL WOULD
MAKE ALL PERSONNEL DECISIONS, HOWEVER, SUCH AS THE RECRUITMENT
OF NEW OFFICERS AND THE NAMING OF UNIT COMMANDERS.

C. NO FORMAL ALLIANCE HAD BEEN CONCLUDED AT THE JULY 15
MEETING IN ZGHARTA OF WALID JUMBLATT, ABDULLAH SA'DAH, AND

SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO WORK TOWARDS AS BROAD AS POSSIBLE A GROUPING OF CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS IN LEBANON. RASHID KARAMI SEEMED DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN JOINING, AND SPEAKER KAMAL AL-ASSAD HAD MADE SOME FAVORABLE NOISES.

D. WHILE SUCH A GROUPING WOULD MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AT THE MOMENT, IT WOULD BE AT MOST A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE. ULTIMATELY, SYRIA WAS NOT WILLING TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE PSP.

2. AS EXPECTED, NA'MAN ALSO BITTERLY CRITICIZED BASHIR GEMAYEL AND CAMILLE CHAMOUN. NA'MAN, HOWEVER, PRAISED PIERRE GEMAYEL AS "MOSTLY MODERATE," WHILE CLAIMING PIERRE WAS "AFRAID OF HIS SON."

3. FINALLY, NA'MNA SAID THAT THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT HAD BECOME VERY DISILLUSIONED WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS. LEBANON NEEDED A "NEW FUAD SHIHAB "AS PRESIDENT, AND NA'MAN SAID HE WOULD PREFER: (1) RAYMOND EDDE AND (2) SULAYMAN FRANGIEH FOR THE JOB. (COMMENT: EMBOFF STRESSED US CONTINUED TO FULLY SUPPORT SARKIS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NATIONAL MOVEMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. END COMMENT.) PARKER

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